

(THE BEST OF: environment)

Best Place to Buy Green Building Supplies

ENVIRONMENTAL HOME CENTER

SoDo, 4121 First Ave. S; 206.682.7332; environmentalhomecenter.com

Before Leonardo DiCaprio ever set foot in a Prius or Al Gore perfected his PowerPoint skills, Seattle's Environmental Home Center was working hard to make it easy to be green. Formed in 1992, the nation's biggest eco-friendly carpet, paint and building supplies retailer recently merged with Portland's Environmental Building Supplies—causing a shudder of fear among big-box stores with its even-more-massive selection of cost-effective good-karma-causing products.

Best Green Benefit You Can Eat

PAGLIACCI PIZZA

Various locations, including Lower Queen Anne, 550 Queen Anne Ave. N; 206.726.1717; pagliacci.com

Yes, yes, being environmentally conscious can help save the earth—but even more importantly, it can get you free pizza. Seattle institution Pagliacci Pizza has teamed up with Seattle City Light to provide a \$15 gift card to Seattle residents who sign up for Green Up, a renewable power program. Enrollees in Green Up pay an extra \$3, \$6 or \$12 per month, which City Light uses to buy renewable energy from a wind farm in eastern Washington. By purchasing renewable energy, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced. Which is terrific—just a little less terrific than the free pizza.

Most Creative Use of Recycled Materials in a Public Space

RECYCLED RUBBER SIDEWALKS

Last year, SDOT arborist Liz Ellis got tired of watching

zealous tree roots splinter the city's concrete sidewalks, so she came up with the perfect compromise in the age-old struggle of man versus nature: rubber sidewalks—a solution she had read about and encouraged Seattle to try out. Made from used tires, the eye-catching 100 percent recyclable rubber sidewalks not only put a spring in Seattleites' steps where they are currently being tested in the South Park neighborhood and on Fifth Avenue and Bell Street downtown, but they also bend and flex under pres-

sure—allowing Emerald City trees and citizens a more peaceful coexistence.

Most Anticipated Guilt-Free Vacation Spot

SEABROOK

seabrookwa.com

When 30-something developer Casey Roloff bought 80 acres of land just north of Ocean Shores, Washington, he could have populated the waterfront spot with a golf course and bluff-hugging mansions. Instead, he parceled off 32 per-

cent of his picturesque purchase for wetlands and open space in 2005—and used reclaimed building materials to begin erecting a pedestrian-friendly, cottage-studded beach town on the rest. We're not the only ones impressed by his efforts: the U.S. Green Building Council chose Seabrook (already taking shape, but slated for full completion in 2012) as one of its LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Homes pilot projects, which means it will help set the standard for residential green building nationwide.



Best Example That Seattle Is Filled With Bleating Hearts

SEATTLE CITY LIGHT'S HIRING OF HEALING HOOVES LLC

(Edwall, PO Box 148; 509.990.7132; healinghoooves.com) When Seattle City Light faced a conundrum about how to clear a steep acre of land at a substation in the Maple Leaf neighborhood, it turned to Healing Hooves LLC—a Spokane-area company that provides environmentally friendly weed and plant control using goats and sheep. In September, a herd of hungry goats ate their way through a fire-hazard buffet of English ivy and blackberry brambles, saving neighbors from pesticides and city workers from dangerous conditions. To City Light and its hooved heroes, we say, "Here's lookin' at you, kids." (Hey, at least we didn't say, "City Light got its goats.")